

Commissioned by The Bach Choir  
in celebration of the 70th birthday of Sir David Willcocks

# Christmas Lullaby

Words and music by  
**JOHN RUTTER**

VERSE 1: SOPRANOS and ALTOS

VERSE 2: TENORS and BASSES

2nd time: **B** *p*

**Andante legato** ♩ = 84

VOICES

ORGAN

Sw. *p*

Man.

Ped.

1. Clear in the  
2. Where are his

6(42)

dark - ness a light shines in Beth - le - hem: An - gels are sing - ing, their  
cour - tiers, and who are his peo - ple? Why does he bear nei - ther

v.2:

11(47)

VERSE 1: TENORS and BASSES  
*mp* VERSE 2: SOPRANOS and ALTOS

sound fills the air. Wise men have jour - neyed to greet their Mes -  
scep - tre nor crown? Shep - herds his cour - tiers, the poor for his

*mp*

16(52)

- si - ah; But on - ly a mo - ther and ba - by lie there.  
peo - ple, With peace as his scep - tre and love for his crown.

*p*

**A** **C** 2nd time

21(57) **pp** dolce

S. *'A - ve Ma - ri - a, a - ve Ma - ri - a': Hear the soft*

A. *'A - ve Ma - ri - a, a - ve Ma - ri - a': Hear the soft*

T. *'A - ve Ma - ri - a, a - ve Ma - ri - a': Hear the soft*

B. *'A - ve Ma - ri - a, a - ve Ma - ri - a': Hear the soft*

**A** **C** 2nd time

Man. **pp**

Ped.

26(62)

*lul-la-by the an - gel hosts sing. 'A - ve Ma - ri - a,*

*lul-la-by the an - gel hosts sing. 'A - ve Ma - ri - a,*

*lul-la-by the an - gel hosts sing. 'A - ve Ma - ri - a,*

*lul-la-by the an - gel hosts sing. 'A - ve Ma - ri - a,*

*lul-la-by the an - gel hosts sing. 'A - ve Ma - ri - a,*

31(67)

*p*  
a - ve Ma - ri - a, Mai - den, and mo - ther of Je - sus our  
*p*  
a - ve Ma - ri - a, Mai - den, and mo - ther of Je - sus our  
*p*  
a - ve Ma - ri - a, Mai - den, and mo - ther of Je - sus our  
*p*  
a - ve Ma - ri - a, Mai - den, and mo - ther of Je - sus our

36 1.

S.  
A.  
King'.

T.  
B.

1. Ch. Fl.

72 2.

King'

2. Gt. or Ch. Fl.

77 D *p*

3. What though your trea - sures\_ are not gold or in - cense?\_ Lay them be -

*p*

D

82 *mf*

-fore him with hearts full of love. Praise to the Christ child, and

*mf*

87

*mp*

praise to his\_ mo - ther Who bore us a\_ Sa - viour by grace from a - bove\_

*mp*

*p*

93

**E**

*p*

S. 'A - ve Ma - ri - a': Hear, O hear the lul - la-by

*P*

A. 'A - ve Ma - ri - a': Hear, O hear the lul - la-by

*mp*

T. 'A - ve Ma - ri - a, a - ve Ma - ri - a': Hear the soft lul-la-by the

*mp*

B. 'A - ve Ma - ri - a, a - ve Ma - ri - a': Hear the soft lul-la-by the

**E**

Sw. *p*

99 *f dolce*

an - gels sing. 'A - ve Ma - ri - a, a - ve Ma -

*f dolce*

an - gels sing. 'A - ve Ma - ri - a, a - ve Ma -

*f dolce*

an - gel hosts sing. 'A - ve Ma - ri - a, a - ve Ma -

*f dolce*

an - gel hosts sing. 'A - ve Ma - ri - a, a - ve Ma -

104 *p* *rall.* *pp*

- ri - a, Mai - den, and mo - ther of Je - sus our King'.

*p* *pp*

- ri - a, Mai - den, and mo - ther of Je - sus our King'.

*p* *pp*

- ri - a, Mai - den, and mo - ther of Je - sus our King'.

*p* *pp*

- ri - a, Mai - den, and mo - ther of Je - sus our King'.

*rall.*

Clear in the darkness a light shines in Bethlehem:

Angels are singing, their sound fills the air.

Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah;

But only a mother and baby lie there.

'Ave Maria, ave Maria':

Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.

'Ave Maria, ave Maria,

Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King'.

Where are his courtiers, and who are his people?

Why does he bear neither sceptre nor crown?

Shepherds his courtiers, the poor for his people,

With peace as his sceptre and love for his crown.

'Ave Maria, ave Maria'

Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.

'Ave Maria, ave Maria,

Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King'.

What though your treasures are not gold or incense?

Lay them before him with hearts full of love.

Praise to the Christ child, and praise to his mother

Who bore us a Saviour by grace from above.

(cascading) (women) Ave-Maria

(men) 'Ave Ma-ria, ave Maria':

Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.

'Ave Maria, ave Maria,

(together)

Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King'.